

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please consider the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A security system for use in a distributed network, comprising:  
a service provider selectively accessible via a network by a plurality of end users  
each having an access device for accessing the network; and  
a control mechanism disposed at a location of the service provider which accesses  
each of the access devices to modify and modifies stored information on a corresponding each  
access device of a corresponding the end users and thereby remotely to designate portions of the  
information as service provider-accessible only portions of the information to prevent access  
thereof the designated information by the corresponding end users.

2. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the control mechanism can determine  
if an end user has accessed the service provider only accessible portions of the information.

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the stored information includes a  
configuration file for the access device.

34. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein service provider includes a  
security code for the designated portions to prevent access thereof by the end users.

45. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein the security code is  
associated with the designated portions at or before initializing the access devices.

56. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein the security code is associated with the designated portions after initializing the access devices.

67. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein service provider includes security levels for the information to prevent access thereof by the end users.

78. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 67, wherein the security levels are associated with the designated portions at or before initializing the access devices.

89. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 67, wherein the security levels are associated with the designated portions after initializing the access devices.

910. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the control mechanism includes a software program for accessing and modifying the information of the access devices and designating portions thereof to prevent access by the end users.

~~10~~11. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining system security for a network service provider, comprising the steps of:

providing a control mechanism for remotely accessing and modifying end user network access devices;

remotely accessing ~~and modifying~~ the end user network access devices to modify information stored on a corresponding access device and thereby remotely designate portions of the information as service provider-accessible ~~only information stored on the access devices~~; and

preventing ~~the an~~ end user of the corresponding access device from accessing the designated ~~service provider-accessible~~ information on the ~~end user's~~ corresponding access device.

12. (New) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of:

employing the control mechanism to determine if an end user has accessed the service provider only accessible portions of the information.

~~11~~13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~10~~11, wherein the step of providing the control mechanism includes providing a software program for accessing and modifying the information of the access devices and designating portions thereof to prevent access by the end users.

~~12~~14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~10~~11, wherein the step of remotely accessing and modifying the end user network devices includes remotely accessing the end user devices from a service provider's location.

~~13~~15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~10~~11, wherein the information stored on the network access devices includes a configuration file for the access device.

~~14~~16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~10~~11, wherein the step of preventing the end user from accessing the designated information includes employing a security code for the designated portions to prevent access thereof by the end users.

~~15~~17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~14~~15, wherein the security code is associated with the designated portions at or before initializing the access devices.

~~16~~18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~14~~15, wherein the security code is associated with the designated portions after initializing the access devices.

~~17~~19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~10~~11, further comprising the step of assigning security for the stored information to prevent access thereof by the end users.

~~18~~20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~17~~18, wherein the security levels are associated with the designated portions at or before initializing the access devices.

~~19~~21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~17~~18, wherein the security levels are associated with the designated portions after initializing the access devices.